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## Plymouth adding pre-engineering program at high school

By VIRGINIA RANSBOTTOM *Tribune Staff Writer*

PLYMOUTH -- A new high school pre-engineering design program that will be offered next year along with four other new courses have Plymouth school board members excited.

"It's about more than curriculum," said Plymouth Community School Corp. Superintendent Dan Tyree. "It's about economic development in Marshall County."

A skilled work force will keep Plymouth in the forefront of where business will locate, he said during a school board meeting Thursday.

Tyree has talked to businesses and industry in the area that are willing to help with fundraising support for the cost of classroom modifications.

A high-powered CAD system, computer networking and teacher training will be needed. Introduction to engineering design will be offered for grades 9 and 10 in partnership with Purdue University.

Multidisciplinary categories could be added along with a beginning course at the junior high level.

The program is part of the national Project Lead the Way engineering technology campaign, eligible for ARRA "Race to the Top" funding.

Indiana has more school districts participating in the dual credit program than any other state.

Registering as vocational classes, the district also can receive state money. The Indiana Technology Education curriculum is a program that applies and integrates science, technology engineering and math.

Other courses planned to be offered at the high school for the 2010-2011 year are discrete mathematics, probability and statistics, advanced placement psychology and advanced placement statistics.

"We have seventh-graders in algebra and eighth-graders in geometry," Plymouth High School Principal Jim Condon said. "We could exhaust our curriculum in the junior year if we don't look ahead."

Tyree reminded board members that five years ago they were listening to a request to add a class in cake decorating.

"We've come a long way," he said.